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The Annual Meeting.

The Eightieth Anniversary of the American Peace Society on May 12, a full account of which, including the speeches, is given in this issue, was an occasion of exceptional significance. How William Ladd, the founder of the Society, would have rejoiced, had he been present, over the immense advance which the cause has made in eighty years, an advance which even his penetrating, prophetic eye was not then powerful enough to foresee. The speaking at the dinner in the evening, by Dr. James Brown Scott, Dr. John H. DeForest, President Mary E. Woolley and Rev. Walter Walsh of Dundee, Scotland, could not well have been better. One hundred and ten guests were at the tables, and marked interest and enthusiasm characterized the exercises. There was a general feeling that the cause for which the Society has so long labored is rapidly reaching its culmination, and that the victories already won furnish the most powerful incentives to the largest possible service in the days before us. Is it not altogether reasonable, as things are now going, to expect that another eighty years will see the extinction of war?

We desire to call special attention to the changes made at the annual meeting in the constitution of

the Society. The annual membership contribution was reduced from two dollars to one. This was done in order to make it easy for persons of modest means to become members. Thousands of men and women of this class throughout the nation are deeply interested in the cause and wish to be connected with it. It was believed that this reduction in the fee would increase the number of members four or five fold. We hope that all those who have heretofore given two dollars a year will feel inclined to continue to do so, or to make some of their family or friends members. A sustaining membership was also created at five dollars a year. There will doubtless be a large number of friends of the cause who will wish to be enrolled as sustaining members, and thus assist in increasing the Society's funds so that it may adequately meet the ever-growing demands made upon it. The life membership fee remains, as heretofore, twenty-five dollars.

Another important provision was introduced into the Constitution. It was provided that the societies hereafter organized in affiliation with the American Peace Society shall be Branch Societies, whose members shall be direct members of the American Peace Society. The membership fee in the Branch Societies will be one dollar, one half of which is to be paid to the American Peace Society, in return for which the ADVOCATE OF PEACE shall be furnished to the members of the Branch Societies.

In these various ways the Society, which has had a long and most influential career, hopes immediately to increase many fold its constituency and the scope of its work. The time is ripe for a great harvest, and if all our members and friends do their duty in their own neighborhoods and circles we shall see results the coming years which will fill us all with wonder and delight.

The Mohonk Arbitration Conference.

The Fourteenth Conference on International Arbitration was held at Mohonk Lake, New York, May 20 to 22. The attendance was larger, if possible, than ever before, the great Mountain House being filled to its utmost capacity. Mr. Smiley's fine hospitality seems to grow more generous and magnanimous as he grows older. He gives one the impression of feeling depressed that he can have as his guests so comparatively few of those engaged in the arbitration and peace movement.

The Conference this year was full of interest and enthusiasm, more so apparently than has usually been the case. The reports of the work and results of the second Hague Conference contributed much to the spirit of rejoicing and hopefulness that pervaded the meeting; but a good deal of this spirit was simply the ripe product of the remarkable growth of the movement since the Mohonk Conferences began in 1895. No one who goes to Mohonk nowadays entertains any doubt of the final and comparatively early supplanting of war by pacific methods of settlement, unless it be, now and then, some professional military or naval man, or some one who fails to read intelligently the signs of the times.

Prominent among the members of the Conference were Hon. John W. Foster, who added much to the interest and success of the occasion by the admirable way in which he presided; Justice Brewer of the United States Supreme Court; Hon. James Brown Scott, Solicitor of the State Department, technical delegate to the second Hague Conference; ex-Chief Justices Stinson and Matteson of Rhode Island; Chief Justice Moore of Michigan; Dr. Charles E. Jefferson of New York; Rev. Walter Walsh of Dundee, Scotland; President Warfield of Lafayette College; President White of the University of Georgia; Hon. Chester Holcombe, diplomatist and author; Hon. W. F. Frear, Governor of Hawaii; Baron Takahira, Japanese Ambassador; Dean Kirchwey, Prof. S. T. Dutton, Prof. John B. Clark, Prof. W. R. Sheperd and Dr. Ernst Richard of Columbia University; Chancellor MacCracken of New York University; Dean Rogers of the Cincinnati University Law School; President Seelye of Smith; Rollo Ogden, editor of the *New York Evening Post*; Hamilton Holt, managing editor of the *Independent*; Hon. John Barrett, Director of the Bureau of American Republics; Hon. Thomas M. Osborne, Public Service Commissioner of New York State; Hon. Samuel J. Barrows, Edwin D. Mead, etc.

The platform given below indicates for the most part the subjects to which chief attention was given. The speaking on the various topics was on the whole of an unusually high order. We do not remember ever to have heard at Mohonk a larger number of really good, pointed, well-matured speeches. Among the strongest were the opening address of Mr. Foster, the addresses of Justice Brewer on Limitation of Armaments, of Dean Kirchwey on International Law and the World's Peace, of Mr. Osborne on Democracy and War, of Dean Rogers of the Cincinnati University Law School, of Hamilton Holt and Rollo Ogden on the Relations of the Press to the Cause of Peace, of Dr. Francis H. Rowley on the Churches and the Peace Movement, of President White of the University of Georgia and President Swain of

Swarthmore on Educational Aspects of the Cause, and of John R. Mott on the Student Federation Movement.

The subject of limitation of armaments was excluded from the platform, as was the case last year. Mr. Smiley did not wish anything to go out on which there was not practically unanimous agreement. But this was manifestly the liveliest subject in the minds of the members. From the public utterances on the subject by Mr. Foster, Justice Brewer, Dr. Trueblood, Mr. Osborne, Dr. Warfield, and a number of those who made brief speeches, and from the spirited remarks heard in private on all hands, it was clear that four-fifths or more of those present desired a strong declaration in favor of the arrest of the current rivalry in armaments.

One evening was given to a fine program by business men on the relations of commerce and trade to peace, more than fifty business organizations being represented in the Conference. The report of the Committee on work among colleges and universities, presented by President Seelye, was most encouraging. More than two hundred institutions had responded favorably to the appeal made to them. The relations of the ministry and the press to the movement were most ably and frankly treated by those who had been asked to speak on these topics.

The most striking episode in the Conference was that occasioned by the presence of Ambassador Takahira. He pleaded strongly not only that disputes be settled by peaceful methods, but that special efforts be made in all countries to prevent controversies from arising. At the close of his speech a resolution was offered by James Wood of New York expressing confidence in the enlightenment and friendly spirit of the Japanese and condemnation of the groundless talk of war with Japan indulged in by an element of our people. This resolution, adopted unanimously and enthusiastically, pleased the Ambassador greatly, and he immediately cabled it to Tokyo.

If we should offer any criticism of the platform adopted, it would be that it was too retrospective. It dealt almost exclusively with what has been accomplished, and gave no real lead, except by implication, as to what should be further done. But whatever criticism one may offer on the Conference and its failure to come up to what many thought its foremost immediate duty, it still remains one of the great and influential agencies in the nation in promoting the pacific adjustment of international disputes and the ultimate elimination of war from international life.

The Platform.

The fourteenth Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration recognizes with profound gratitude the continuous and conscious development of the forces which make for international peace through international justice.

It especially approves and commends the work of the second Hague Conference, which revised and perfected the various conventions of the Conference of 1899, as follows:

Restricting the use of force in the collection of contract debts; proclaiming unanimously the principle of obligatory arbitration; establishing an international court of prize, and declaring in favor of the establishment of a permanent court of arbitral justice.

These measures are great and welcome advance towards the regulation of international relations upon the basis of justice, reason and respect for law.

The fourteenth Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration notes with pleasure the existence of fifty and more treaties of arbitration concluded within the past five years, and more especially the arbitration treaties concluded between the United States and France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Switzerland, Holland, Norway, Sweden, Portugal and Spain. The Conference therefore expresses the hope that the peaceful and judicial settlement of international difficulties by resort to courts of arbitration and of justice bids fair to become the rule of the future, as it has been in a measure the enlightened practice of the immediate past.

The fourteenth Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration further commends the activities of our schools, colleges, universities, and the various professional, business and labor organizations of the country, by which and through which popular sentiment is created, trained and directed, not merely to the maintenance of peace, but also, by the elimination of the ostensible causes of war by peaceful settlement, to the prevention of war itself.

Finally, the fourteenth Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration rejoices in the fact that the representation of all the civilized nations of the world in the second Hague Conference, and the recommendation in its final act for a future conference, guarantee, for the future, a conference of an international and permanent character, capable of correcting the inequalities of international practice and of enacting a code of international law based upon justice and equity.

The Eightieth Anniversary of the American Peace Society.

The Eightieth Anniversary of the American Peace Society took place on May 12. The business meeting was held at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, in the Society's rooms, 31 Beacon Street, Boston.

President Paine was in the chair.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Charles E. Beals.

The reading of the records of the previous annual meeting was omitted.

Secretary Trueblood reported that all the persons chosen to official positions at the last annual meeting had accepted their appointments.

A Nominating Committee, appointed by the Board of Directors, consisting of Everett O. Fisk, Edwin D. Mead, Sarah Taber Coffin, Rev. S. C. Bushnell and Edward H. Clement, brought in a list of persons to serve as officers

and Board of Directors for the coming year. The report of the committee was approved and the persons named elected to their respective positions. (The list is given in full on page 000.) Two of the Directors, Magnus W. Alexander of Lynn and Augustine Jones of Newton Highlands, were new, taking the place of two former members of the Board, who had declined to serve longer.

To the list of Vice-Presidents Hon. James Brown Scott, Solicitor of the State Department, was added. The Board of Directors was authorized to place the name of Dr. J. H. DeForest, a missionary of the American Board in Japan, on the list of Vice-Presidents, provided he was willing to serve in this capacity. (Dr. DeForest has since expressed his pleasure to serve, and has been, by the Directors, made a Vice-President.)

The annual reports of the Treasurer and of the Auditor were then read. It was voted that the Treasurer's report as audited be accepted and placed on file. The report showed that the receipts for the year had been \$15,097.38, \$13,717.84 of which covered the ordinary receipts, including donations, and \$1,379.54 of which was in legacies; and that the payments had been \$11,015.47, showing a balance of receipts (including legacies) over expenditures, of \$4,081.91. The report showed, with the amount on hand May 1, 1907 (\$3,918.79), a balance in the treasury May 1, 1908, of \$8,000.70. Of the expenditures during the year, \$1,291.39, received from legacies, had gone into the Building and Endowment Fund. Secretary Trueblood explained that the large balance was due to recent contributions, the amount thus received constituting in part the budget for the coming summer and autumn months, when few or no contributions are received. The Treasurer's trial balance showed that the Building and Endowment Fund had increased, through interest and legacies set apart for this purpose, to \$6,529.82.

The annual report of the Board of Directors was then presented by Secretary Trueblood. Mr. Erving Winslow proposed that there be added to this report an expression of the gratification of the Society at the signing of the treaty between five European powers guaranteeing the integrity of Norway. Mr. Edwin D. Mead called attention to two other important treaties recently signed in regard to the Baltic and North Sea territories. It was voted that the report of the Board of Directors be adopted, and that the Secretary be authorized to add to it a section embodying the provisions of the treaties referred to by Mr. Winslow and Mr. Mead.

A minute from the Board of Directors was then read recommending that Articles 4, 5 and 6 of the Constitution be changed to read as follows:

"ARTICLE 4. Every annual member of the Society shall pay a yearly contribution of one dollar; the payment of five